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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Nov. 3, through midnight Thursday, Nov. 9.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Nov. 2, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Chart on next page

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price 82.87

Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location 12.39

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton 2.20

Average U.S. location 0.39

Sum of Adjustments -14.98

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE 67.89 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price 82.87

Northern Europe Coarse Count Price -77.85

5.02

Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton -4.75

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT 0.27 cents/lb.

Adjusted World

The next AWP and coarse count adustment annoucement will be made on Nov. 9

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSAL FOR PRIVATE QUARANTINE FACILITIES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is extending through Jan. 5, 1990, the comment period for its recent proposal for improved disease-control and security measures at privately operated quarantine facilities for horses imported into the United States. The original deadline for responding to the proposed regulation change was Nov. 6.

"We are extending the comment period due to industry requests for more time to evaluate the proposed regulations and to allow their members to respond," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"Under the proposal, the requirements for permanent private facilities would be similar to those already in place for temporary ones," Glosser said, "but would include stricter disease control and security regulations

since different lots of horses would be continuously processed through a facility."

The proposed regulations for private facilities, which also include additional requirements for temporary facilities, address responsibility for costs, appropriate supervisory and personnel procedures, location, construction, sanitation, security, handling of horses, recordkeeping and environmental responsibilities. USDA would provide necessary veterinary supervision of importations for permanent or temporary private facility operators, who would reimburse USDA for the services.

USDA requires that horses imported from foreign countries other than Canada be quarantined before entering this country to prevent the introduction of exotic equine diseases. Canada's equine health status and import regulations closely parallel those in the United States, making it unnecessary for horses imported from that country to be quarantined.

Notice of the extension for comments will be published in the Nov. 6 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Jan. 5. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket number 85-061 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Questa Glenn (301) 436-7799

#

USDA REPORT DETAILS AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE USE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—Agricultural pesticide use has declined since 1982 because of decreased acreage in crop production, according to "Agricultural Pesticide Use Trends and Policy Issues," a report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The report, published by USDA's Economic Research Service, reviews pesticide use by American farmers between 1964 and 1982 and discusses acreage of major crops treated with insecticides and herbicides through 1988.

According to ERS agricultural economists Craig D. Osteen and Philip I. Szmedra, total pesticide use now varies from year to year, mostly in

response to the amount of field crop acreage in production, reflecting the influence of both market conditions and farm programs. This was most dramatic in 1983 during the implementation of the government's payment-in-kind program, they said.

Since World War II, pesticide use has been an integral part of technological advances that reduced agricultural labor use by almost 75 percent and increased productivity by 230 percent. Pesticides' share of operating expenditures grew from 0.7 percent in 1945 to 5.9 percent in 1986, while labor's share fell from 24 to 14 percent. During this same period, the share of consumer dollars spent on food decreased by about 20 percent.

Led by rapid growth in herbicide use, pesticides used on major crops more than doubled during the 1964-82 period, according to Osteen and Szmedra. Farmers increased their use of pesticides on corn and soybeans to a greater extent than on other crops. The quantity of insecticides used on cotton fell, probably because pyrethroid insecticides which are applied at a low rate were introduced in the late 1970's. Regulatory decisions that removed pesticides from the market may have reduced the variety of pesticides available to farmers, they said.

According to the report, pesticide regulations, development of integrated pest management technology, and new pesticide materials have altered pesticide use patterns over time. These developments, together with decreased field-crop acreage, lie behind the reductions in pesticide use since 1982.

Copies of "Agricultural Pesticide Use Trends and Policy Issues" are available from EMS-NASS, P.O. Box 1608, Rockville, Md. 20849-1608; telephone 1-800-999-6779.

Lindsay Mann (202) 786-1512

#

USDA ANNOUNCES 1990 UPLAND COTTON PROGRAM PROVISIONS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced a 12.5 percent acreage reduction and other provisions of the 1990 upland cotton program:

Yeutter said, "The program I am announcing today strikes a balance between the needs of the marketplace, budget considerations, and producer concerns about surpluses."

- The established target price will be 72.9 cents per pound.
- The loan level will be 50.27 cents per pound for the base quality of upland cotton, Strict Low Middling (SLM), 1-1/16 inch, micronaire 3.5 through 4.9, at average U.S. location.
- Plan B of the marketing loan program will be implemented. Under Plan B, 1990 crop cotton pledged as collateral for a price support loan may be repaid at the lower of the adjusted world price (AWP) or the loan level.

The AWP is determined for the base quality. It will be adjusted on the basis of quality and location using the 1990-crop price support program schedules of premiums and discounts for grade and staple, discounts for micronaire, location differentials and any coarse count adjustment in effect for the week in which the loan repayment occurs. The AWP for any quality will not be established at less than 5 cents per pound.

When loan collateral is redeemed with cash during the first 10 months of the loan term and the AWP is below the loan rate (50.27 cents per pound) for the base quality, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will not require payment of any interest and will pay all of the warehouse charges. When the AWP is above the base loan rate, CCC will not require the payment of that portion of the accrued interest and will pay that portion of the accrued warehouse charges determined necessary to permit the loan collateral to be redeemed with cash at the AWP.

If a price support loan is extended for 8 months, the producer will be required to pay interest and warehouse storage charges on cash loan repayments during the loan extension period regardless of the level of the AWP. As in 1989, if the loan collateral is forfeited to the CCC, the producer will be required to pay CCC all costs associated with the storage of the forfeited cotton, beginning with the first month of the loan extension and a handling fee of \$1 per bale on the forfeited cotton.

Other provisions include:

- A paid land diversion program will not be implemented.
- Loan deficiency cash payments will be made to eligible producers who agree to forego loan eligibility if the loan repayment rate is less than the announced loan level. The payment rate will equal the difference between the loan level and the loan repayment rate. Producers may elect

to forego loan eligibility and receive loan deficiency payments on a bale-by-bale basis.

—A recourse loan program for upland seed cotton will be available.

—An inventory reduction program will not be implemented.

Yeutter reserved the right to initiate cost reduction options as provided in Section 1009 of the Food Security Act of 1985.

Common program provisions which apply to the 1990 wheat, feed grains, upland cotton, extra long staple cotton and rice programs were announced Aug. 7.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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CALIFORNIA AND MICHIGAN MEAT FIRM OFFICIALS FINED FOR MEAT-LAW VIOLATIONS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—Meat-processing companies in California and Michigan and their presidents have been fined for violations of federal meat inspection laws, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

In the California case, the San Francisco firm Hahn and Co., and the firm's president, Robert R. Fontana, were ordered to pay jointly or separately \$30,000 in restitution for selling mislabeled beef.

Dr. Lester M. Crawford, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said Fontana and the company had been charged with one misdemeanor count of selling approximately 31,000 pounds of beef labeled "USDA Choice," when, in fact, the beef was ungraded. Fontana was sentenced Oct. 5 in U.S. District Court of California. In addition to the restitution, he was fined \$3,000 and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

In the Michigan case, Eugene S. Gunsberg, president of G&D Foods of Detroit, was fined \$10,000 and placed on three years' probation after pleading guilty to one misdemeanor count of selling corned beef briskets with excess added water.

Gunsberg was convicted in the U.S. District Court of Michigan on Sept. 29, and given a suspended sentence of 30 days in jail. He was also ordered to perform 200 hours of community service and pay probation costs of more than \$4,000.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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MICROBIOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET NOV. 27-29

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods will meet at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel in Arlington, Va., from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 27 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 28-29.

On Nov. 27, the Meat and Poultry Subcommittee and the Seafood Subcommittee each will meet to prepare for the full committee meeting.

On Nov. 28-29, the full advisory committee will consider recommendations from its three subcommittees—Seafood, Meat and Poultry, and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP).

The committee advises the secretary of agriculture and secretary of health and human services on microbiological criteria for assessing the safety and wholesomeness of food, including criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether food has been prepared using good manufacturing practices.

The Meat and Poultry Subcommittee is developing recommendations for certain cooked meat and poultry products that require refrigeration, while the Seafood Subcommittee is addressing cooked, ready-to-eat shrimp and crabmeat products.

The HACCP Subcommittee, comprised of members from the Meat and Poultry and the Seafood Subcommittees, is defining the HACCP system of food safety assurance for application in the manufacture of meat, poultry, and seafood products.

The meetings are open to the public on a space available basis. Comments may be filed with the committee before or after the meeting and should be addressed to: Catherine M. DeRoever, Director, Executive Secretariat, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 3175-S, Washington, D.C. 20250. Background materials are available from DeRoever at (202) 447-9150.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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USDA CANCELS HEARING ON PROPOSED S.C. FLUE-CURED TOBACCO MARKET MERGER

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today the Nov. 7 public hearing to determine the need for merging the Conway and Loris, S.C. flue-cured tobacco markets has been cancelled.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said tobacco growers and warehousers originally proposing the merger requested that it be cancelled.

Notice of the cancellation will appear in today's Federal Register. Further information on the cancellation may be obtained from the Director, Tobacco Division, Rm. 502 Annex, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 447-2567.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATIONS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during the 1989-90 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

#

WATCH OUT GRASSHOPPERS, THERE'S A FUNGUS AMONG US

WASHINGTON—A fungus from Australia is showing great promise as a possible natural weapon for use in the United States to control range and crop devastations by grasshoppers, said a U.S. Department of Agriculture official.

Jerry Fowler, director of the Grasshopper Integrated Pest Management (GHIPM) project, coordinated by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said that preliminary laboratory experiments with the fungus, *Entomophaga praxibuli*, indicate that it can infect and kill a broad range of grasshopper species.

"Our goal is to prevent grasshopper depredation," Fowler said. "We believe that this fungus could play an important part in an integrated approach to grasshopper control."

Currently, the GHIPM project relies mainly on *Nosema locustae*, a protozoan-microbial agent, along with chemical pesticide applications, to control grasshoppers biologically. Using the fungus could help land managers to rely less and less on chemicals for grasshopper control.

The GHIPM project plans to integrate the fungus into their research-demonstration area projects in North Dakota next year. Fowler said they also hope to begin experimental control work using the Australian fungus in Alaska this coming grasshopper season.

Project researchers have shown that the naturally occurring fungus is highly effective on three major grasshopper pests in America's rangelands: the spur-throat grasshoppers (*Melanoplus sanguinipes* and *M. differentialis*), and the band-wing grasshopper (*Camnula pellucida*).

The fungus only affects grasshoppers. Laboratory tests using doses at least 100 times greater than any found in nature have repeatedly shown that the fungus causes no harm to other insects and does not affect humans or other mammals.

Fungi infect grasshoppers directly through their outer covering. Once infected with *E. praxibuli*, grasshoppers usually die within 7 to 10 days. Laboratory tests have shown that the fungus, once established, can also spread to future generations of grasshoppers. It produces spores that overwinter in the soil, waiting to attack the next year's grasshoppers. Other biological control agents, such as viruses and bacteria, take longer to be effective because they must be eaten before infection can occur.

"We believe that further research and controlled introduction of *E.*

E. praxibuli in our project trials will increase our options by providing an effective long-term biological control agent," Fowler said. "Any program must take environmental protection and safety into consideration. Because this fungus only affects grasshoppers, it promises to be a valuable new tool for our agricultural producers."

E. praxibuli was isolated from grasshoppers during an outbreak in Australia in 1985. The dry climatic conditions in the Wanwibinda region of New South Wales, Australia, where this fungus was discovered, are similar to America's northwestern rangelands where outbreaks annually infest millions of acres.

The GHIPM project is a cooperative effort of federal, state and private institutions, organized to develop management and control methods for economically damaging grasshoppers that infest rangelands and farmlands. The integrated approach uses a carefully selected combination of proven control techniques that are designed for each particular situation.

Margaret Webb (301) 436-7299

#

USDA PROTECTS FOUR NEW PLANT VARIETIES AND REISSUES FOUR CERTIFICATES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of four new varieties of seed-reproduced plants, including oat, tomato and wheat. Certificates are being reissued to the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn., for four wheat varieties.

Kenneth H. Evans, with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import, and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

—the Mesquite II variety of oat, developed by the Douglass W. King Co., San Antonio, Texas;

—the 71-75 variety of tomato, developed by the Del Monte Corp., San Leandro, Calif.;

—the Syringa variety of wheat, developed by Plant Breeders 1 Inc., Moscow, Idaho;

—the Baker variety of wheat, developed by Western Plant Breeders Inc., Bozeman, Mont.

The certificates of protection for the Syringa and Baker wheat varieties are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

Certificates of protection for the 9227, 9323, Coker 9733, and Coker 833 varieties of wheat, owned by the Northrup King Co., are being reissued at this time to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

The plant variety protection program is administered by AMS and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 10.16 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.37 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 9.25 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 5.08 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.28 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.84 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.63 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Nov. 14, at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

#

USDA'S OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION ISSUES REPORT ON RURAL MOBILITY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—The old saw "you can't get there from here" unfortunately describes transportation today for too many rural residents.

According to Martin F. "Buzz" Fitzpatrick, Jr., administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Transportation, substantial loss of air and intercity bus services during the past decade has left many rural communities with limited access to any form of public transportation.

In response to concerns about loss of rural mobility, OT has issued the report, "Reconnecting Rural America: Recommendations for a National Strategy." Fitzpatrick said the report represents the culmination of a twoyear effort in this area. "From the very beginning," he said, "this initiative has been a cooperative activity involving a wide range of public and private agencies seeking solutions to the transportation problems of rural residents."

Fitzpatrick said the report gives rural transportation organizations a practical guide to aid in program planning and policy development at the national, state and local levels. By drawing on the expertise of transportation providers and users at all levels, it presents a useful summary of current concerns and issues facing rural passenger transportation throughout the country.

"Also," he said, "we hope this report contributes to the national dialogue on future transportation policy. The U.S. Department of Transportation held a series of public hearings throughout the country over the summer. DOT is using what was learned at these hearings in preparation of a National Transportation Policy, which will be released in January 1990."

Led by the United Bus Owners of America, DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration and OT, three regional symposiums were held during 1987-88 to gather information on rural passenger transportation needs and how they are being met throughout the country. A national conference then used this information to develop recommendations to improve rural passenger transportation.

"Conference participants linked transportation strategy components that emerged from the regional symposiums to specific actions, actors and timeframes," Fitzpatrick said. "This process has resulted in a 'blueprint'

for improving rural intercity passenger transportation."

Copies of the report are available from: USDA-OT, P.O. Box 96575, Washington, D.C. 20090-6575. For more information call (202) 653-6305.

Larry Mark (202) 447-3977

#

WEED SPECIALIST NAMED 1989 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—Chester G. McWhorter, a plant physiologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Weed Science Laboratory at Stoneville, Miss., has been named "Distinguished Scientist of the Year" by USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The award is the research agency's highest scientific honor.

"Over the past 30 years, Dr. McWhorter has made several important discoveries that have been widely adapted to control weeds in crops," said R. Dean Plowman, ARS administrator. He will present awards to McWhorter and three other agency scientists in a ceremony at 1:30 p.m., Nov. 15 at the USDA Administration Building here. McWhorter will receive a \$5,000 cash award and \$40,000 in research support.

"For example, Dr. McWhorter pioneered the use of additives to herbicides to improve herbicide effectiveness and safety," Plowman said. "Weed control technology that he originated is annually used on tens of millions of acres in the United States.

"McWhorter's contributions to weed science research have given farmers effective ways to control johnsongrass in soybean fields and improve their methods of herbicide application."

ARS began the awards program in 1982 to encourage superior basic research on critical issues in the food and agricultural sciences, Plowman said.

McWhorter's recent studies showed that applying herbicides in oil rather than water covered as much as five times more leaf area while requiring less liquid to carry the herbicides. This would allow farmers to make fewer trips across fields when applying herbicides, cutting equipment fuel usage and therefore lowering crop production costs.

McWhorter also recently discovered that timing of herbicide applications is crucial to their success because of changes in the waxy surface of weed leaves. By applying herbicides at the right time, farmers

could boost the effectiveness of each application and reduce the need for additional applications. This could lower not only production costs, but also the possibility of contamination of natural resources by agricultural chemicals.

A native of Decatur, Miss., McWhorter joined ARS in 1952 as an agronomist in weed control research at Stoneville after earning bachelor's and master's degrees in agronomy at Mississippi State University. He left the lab in 1956 to obtain his doctorate in plant physiology at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge. He returned to the Stoneville lab in 1958 as a plant physiologist and directed the lab from 1974 to 1987.

In addition to his research, McWhorter has served on the board of directors of the Weed Science Society of America and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology. He was president of both WSSA and the Southern Weed Science Society.

Plowman also will present awards to three ARS "Outstanding Scientists of the Year": Charles W. Stuber, research geneticist, Raleigh, N.C.; Roger H. Lawson, plant pathologist, Beltsville, Md.; and Bill B. Brodie, plant pathologist, Ithaca, N.Y. Each will receive \$2,500 in cash and \$25,000 in research support.

Stuber, research leader at the Plant Science Research Unit since 1975, is being recognized for his development of new technology for the genetic improvement of corn. He pioneered the use of molecular markers to map genes affecting economically important traits in corn.

Stuber has worked for ARS for 30 years. He is a fellow of both the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America, and is a genetics professor at North Carolina State University.

Lawson, research leader at the Florist and Nursery Crops Laboratory since 1981, is being honored for his leadership of a national floriculture research program. The award also notes his virus research and his efforts in transferring techniques developed in the laboratory into effective tools for industry.

Lawson joined ARS in 1964. He is a fellow of the American Phytopathological Society and an honorary life member of the American Orchid Society.

Brodie is being honored for outstanding research on plant parasitic nematodes, including the development of methods of controlling the golden nematode, a major threat to the U.S. potato industry. He has been research leader of the Plant Protection Research Unit since 1987.

Brodie joined ARS in 1955. He was honored in 1982 by the New York

Empire Potato Club for "meritorious service to the potato industry."

Four ARS "Area Scientists of the Year" also have been named. Each will receive \$15,000 in research support. They are:

—Robert M. Saunders, chemist, Albany, Calif., for research promoting the expanded use of grains, especially rice bran, in food products. Saunders is research leader at the Food Quality Research Unit.

—Lajpat R. Ahuja, soil physicist, Durant, Okla., for research leading to a better understanding of the way pollutants can contaminate groundwater. Ahuja works at the agency's Soil and Water Resources Research Unit.

—Edgar L. Sorenson, agronomist, Manhattan, Kan., for research on the genetic resources of alfalfa and their wild relatives, and on the development of germplasm for plants that will be resistant to a variety of crop pests. Sorenson works at the Plant Science and Entomology Research Unit.

—Wendell E. Burkholder, entomologist, Madison, Wis., for research resulting in commercial application of insect traps for monitoring and controlling insects in stored grain. Burkholder is research leader at the Stored Product Insects Research Unit.

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089

#

USDA ISSUES 1989 GRADE LOAN RATES FOR WISCONSIN AND OHIO CIGAR TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today issued loan rates for the grades of 1989-crop Wisconsin and Ohio cigar filler and binder tobaccos, types 42-44 and 54 and 55.

The rates are based on the average support level of 90.9 cents per pound announced May 18. The average support level reflects a 1.4 percent reduction in the level of price support due to amendments to the Agricultural Act of 1949 made by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987. These amendments provided for a reduction in the level of price support by 1.4 percent or, alternatively, for an imposition of an assessment on producers and purchasers of tobacco in order to achieve an equal reduction in outlays by CCC.

Rates for Ohio filler tobacco, types 42-44, range from 44 to 97 cents

per pound and for Wisconsin binder, types 54 and 55, from 12 cents to \$1.05 per pound.

The associations receiving tobacco as collateral for price support loans will deduct assessments for no-net-cost tobacco accounts from loan proceeds paid producers. Also, the Ohio Association will deduct 3 cents, the Southern Wisconsin Association will deduct 2 cents and the Northern Wisconsin Association will deduct 1 cent per pound to help defray the associations' administrative costs.

Wisconsin types 54 and 55 grades N2, "No-G" (no grade) or scrap, and Ohio types 42-44 graded "No-G", "N", or scrap will not be accepted as loan collateral. Only the original producer is eligible for price support advances.

Grade and Loan Rate

Ohio Filler (types 42-44)		Wisconsin Binder (types 54 and 55)	
Grade	Cents per pound	Grade	Cents per pound
X1	97	X1	105
X2	87	X2	95
X3	65	X3	75
X4	44	N1	12

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787.

#

ALABAMA POULTRY PROCESSOR AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—Southland Broilers, Inc., Enterprise, Ala., has entered into a consent decision to settle an unresolved grading complaint, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported today.

The terms of the consent decision and order, issued by a USDA administrative law judge, state that federal poultry grading and acceptance services will be withdrawn and denied for one year, beginning Oct. 18. Under the judge's order, the consent decision places this penalty in abeyance for 12 months unless the company commits violations of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

"The year-long consent order is designed to ensure that Southland Broilers, Inc. is complying with the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946," said Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

"During the next year, USDA will continue to monitor closely the poultry processing activities of Southland Broilers, Inc. Should Southland violate the act, USDA can immediately withdraw grading services for 12 months, as provided for under the consent decree," Haley said.

USDA had previously issued a complaint alleging that Southland, Inc. had violated the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 by knowingly misrepresenting boxes of the firm's poultry products as officially graded by USDA. Haley said the company neither admitted nor denied the charges, but has agreed to the consent decision and order by the judge.

AMS provides grading services, on a voluntary user-fee basis, to the poultry industry. The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 provides the basic authority for many functions of AMS, including authorizing federal standards for farm products, as well as grading and inspection services.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

ALGERIA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BARLEY UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 500,000 metric tons of U.S. barley to Algeria under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of barley will be made to buyers in Algeria at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corp. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Algerian market.

Today's 500,000 metric tons, added to the 2,000 metric tons remaining under previous allocations, brings the amount of barley available to Algeria under the EEP to 502,000 metric tons.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future. For more

information telephone Lynne Reich, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP, call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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EGYPT ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT FLOUR UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 500,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat flour to Egypt under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of wheat flour will be made to buyers in Egypt at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corp. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Egyptian market.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future. For more information telephone Lynne Reich, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP, call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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Media Advisory:

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

MEDIA ADVISORY:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—Technical personnel with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Department of the Interior's National Park Service will meet here at 9 a.m., Dec. 5, 1100 L Street, N.W., to discuss brucellosis in wildlife. The meeting will focus on this disease in free-ranging buffalo (bison) and elk in the Yellowstone National Park area.

Wild buffalo and elk in and around the park, especially in Wyoming, are known carriers of brucellosis, or "Bang's disease," an infectious bacterial disease that causes pregnant animals to abort or give birth to weak offspring.

With brucellosis now eliminated from cattle herds in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, the technical group will explore ways to protect the cattle population from reinfection via nearby herds of wild elk and buffalo. Participants also will exchange technical information on how brucellosis affects domestic cattle and buffalo and elk, and they will identify additional data needed to manage the situation in the Yellowstone National Park area.

Questa Glenn (301) 436-7799

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MEDIA ADVISORY:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter will travel to Rome Nov. 13-15 to address the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and the American Chamber of Commerce in Italy and to discuss trade issues with agricultural leaders from other countries.

On Nov. 14, Yeutter will address the 25th session of FAO's biannual conference. He will discuss the agriculture negotiations of the Uruguay Round of trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and how the negotiations affect developing countries.

Also on Nov. 14, he will deliver the luncheon address to the American Chamber of Commerce in Italy. The address will focus on the need for reform in world agricultural trade.

During his visit, Yeutter will meet with agriculture ministers from other countries.

Kelly Shipp, (202) 447-4623.

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